

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1      **(Cancelled)**.

2.      **(Currently amended)**      A vehicle power cables retaining structure for retaining power cables, comprising:

power cables laid out along an underside of a floor of a hybrid vehicle which is driven to run by an engine and a motor;

metallic protection pipes; and

a flexible protection pipe pipes,

wherein the power cables connect a power converter disposed outside an engine compartment with the motor disposed inside the engine compartment,

the power cables are individually passed through metallic protection pipes under the floor, and the metallic protection pipes are then supported from the underside of the floor, and

in the engine compartment, the power cables are passed through a flexible protection tube,

wherein at least one protection pipe is formed by being bent after the power cable is passed therethrough.

3.      **(Original)**      The vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 2, wherein

the protection tube includes an iron corrugated tube or an iron flexible tube having a net-like shield portion.

Claim 4      **(Cancelled)**.

5. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The A~~ vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 1, comprising:

power cables laid out along an underside of a floor of an electric vehicle, and  
metallic protection pipes for passing the power cables individually therethrough,  
wherein the metallic protection pipes are then retained on the underside of the  
floor of the vehicle,

wherein the at least one protection pipe is decreased in diameter by crimping an intermediate portion of the protection pipe along the a length thereof.

6. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The A~~ vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 1, comprising:

power cables laid out along an underside of a floor of an electric vehicle, and  
metallic protection pipes for passing the power cables individually therethrough,  
wherein the metallic protection pipes are then retained on the underside of the  
floor of the vehicle,

wherein the protection pipe is divided into a plurality of protection pipes, the plurality of protection pipes so divided being are connected to each other by an iron corrugated tube or an iron flexible tube having a net-like shield.

7. **(Withdrawn – Currently Amended)** The vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 5 [[1]], wherein

a refrigerant is allowed to flow through a gap formed between the at least one protection pipe and the a corresponding power cable passing therethrough.

8. **(Withdrawn – Currently Amended)** The vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 7, further comprising:

a fin provided on at least either of an inner surface or an outer surface of at least one the protection pipe in such a manner as to protrude therefrom.

9. **(Withdrawn)** The vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 8, wherein

the fin has a T-shaped cross section.

Claim 10 **(Canceled)**.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 2, wherein ~~the~~

at least one protection pipe is decreased in diameter by crimping an intermediate portion of ~~the protection pipe~~ along a length thereof.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 2, wherein ~~the protection pipe is divided into a plurality of protection pipes,~~

~~the plurality of protection pipes so divided being~~ are connected to each other by an iron corrugated tube or an iron flexible tube having a net-like shield.

13. **(Withdrawn – Currently Amended)** The vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 2, wherein

a refrigerant is allowed to flow through a gap formed between the at least one protection pipe and the a corresponding power cable passing therethrough.

14. **(Withdrawn – Currently Amended)** The vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 13, further comprising:

a fin provided on at least either of an inner surface or an outer surface of the at least one protection pipe in such a manner as to protrude therefrom.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 14, wherein

the fin has a T-shaped cross section.

16. **(New)** The vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 6, wherein a refrigerant is allowed to flow through a gap formed between at least one protection pipe and a corresponding power cable passing therethrough.

17. **(New)** The vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 16, further comprising:

a fin provided on at least either of an inner surface or an outer surface of at least one protection pipe in such a manner as to protrude therefrom.

18. **(New)** The vehicle power cables retaining structure as set forth in Claim 17, wherein the fin has a T-shaped cross section.